



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

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TTY Relay: 711

April 13, 2009

TAXPAYERNAME

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RE: Vashon Marine Recovery Area

SITE ADDRESS:

PARCEL(S):

Greetings:

As you may be aware, the west shore of Quartermaster Harbor and portions of the East Passage are closed to recreational and/or commercial shellfish harvesting due to pollution. On-Site Sewage (OSS) systems that are not working properly can be a major contributor to shoreline pollution. Inadequate or failing septic systems may contribute fecal coliform bacteria, nitrogen and other contaminants. The contamination prevents shellfish harvesting and poses a serious health risk for the people and animals that use the shorelines.

In recognition of the health risks associated with shoreline pollution, the Public Health Seattle-King County (PH-SKC) Board of Health adopted an On-Site Septic System Management Plan designating a Marine Recovery Area (MRA) for portions of Vashon-Maury Island in 2008. The MRA designations are within or adjoin "prohibited" or "unclassified" shellfish harvest areas. The MRA designation requires property owners within the MRA to inspect, and repair or replace their On-Site Sewage (OSS) system if needed by July 1, 2012, then annually inspect OSS function after 2012.

Many property owners have recognized the potential problems associated with a failing OSS, including potential difficulty refinancing or selling their property. With new OSS technologies available and technical assistance resources from PH-SKC, this is a good opportunity for property owners who have been contemplating evaluating or upgrading their OSS to take action. **A Septic System Alternatives Vendor Fair is being held at Chautauqua Elementary School, at 9309 SW Cemetery Rd on Vashon Island on Saturday April 18, 2009 from 11:00 to 2:00.**

To address the MRA designation, property owners should obtain a professional inspection of their OSS to document the system type, location, function and prepare an as-built plan of the system if one does not already exist. If the professional inspection determines that the OSS is not functioning, owners can work with a licensed OSS designer to evaluate options to repair, replace, or install an alternate method of treating their wastewater.

Public Health Seattle-King County has assembled a variety of resources to assist MRA owners:

- MRA OSS Status – Maps of the Vashon-Maury Island MRA showing individual parcels and the status of the OSS for each parcel.

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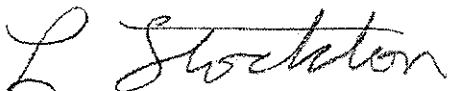
- MRA Technical Assistance – Settle King County Public Health will provide a preliminary assessment of OSS function including site inspections and dye testing to identify discharges to marine waters or above ground locations.
- OSS As-Built Plans and Inspection Records – Property owners can request any available OSS as-built plans and inspection records for their site.
- Alternative Wastewater Treatment Options - Information on potential alternatives for wastewater system repair, upgrade, or replacement and standards for industry inspections, repairs or replacement of OSS.
- MRA Information – Background on the Vashon-Maury Island MRA including implementation goals, barriers and opportunities, links to the State law creating MRA's (RCW 70.118A), the PH-SKC Board of Health On-Site Septic System Management Plan designating the MRA, and Washington State Department of Health Office of Shellfish Protection shellfish surveys for Vashon-Maury Island.

Inspection and repair of OSS when needed can eliminate a potential source of contamination to the homeowner, shellfish, and waters of the Puget Sound. Working together we can help property owners to assess the condition of their OSS and determine if it will need repair or replacement. PH-SKC has flexibility within the MRA to conditionally approve OSS and water systems to enable property owners to make limited repairs and upgrades to their property. When property owners have completed an OSS inspection they will know the location, type and condition of their OSS system. After they have repaired or upgraded their OSS if needed, their existing home will have an approved OSS.

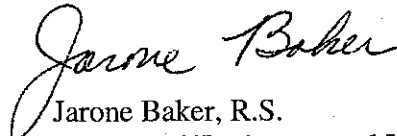
PH-SKC has been working with Septic Solutions for Vashon, a subcommittee of the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council, to learn more about the MRA. We are now looking forward to meeting with property owners, residents, community associations and other interested groups to begin implementing the MRA. A series of neighborhood meetings will be scheduled at a variety of different times to discuss the MRA designation with property owners, learn about local conditions, and review resources available to assist them with MRA implementation.

To learn more about the Vashon Marine Recovery Area or Public Health assistance resources please visit our future web site at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs.aspx> or contact me directly at 206-296-1910, email Laurence.Stockton@KingCounty.Gov. If you have technical assistance questions concerning your OSS please contact Jarone Baker 206-296-9738 or email at Jarone.Baker@KingCounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Laurence Stockton
Program Manager
Water and Land Resources Division



Jarone Baker, R.S.
Health and Environmental Investigator II
Community Environmental Health